IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 11 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 1, 13 and 25 as shown below. The claims, as pending in subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A data search apparatus for conducting a search of data which includes binary data and meta-data from a database in which the data to be searched is registered, comprising:

list display means for selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in the database, and for displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

meta-data display means for displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list;

setting means for setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed by said meta-data display means;

execution means for conducting a search of the data registered in the database based on the search condition set by said setting means[[,]]; and

matching means for prohibiting said list display means from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in the database, and deletes the registration of said data from the database,

wherein said execution means also conducts a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said matching means additionally registers the data in the database.

2. (Original) A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the meta-data is described in a data description language.

3. (Original) A data search apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the data description language is one of XML, SGML, and HTML.

4. (Original) A data search apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the meta-data is attached after the binary data.

5. (Original) A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the binary data is one of still image data, moving picture data, and audio data.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said list display means displays a list of a search result obtained by the search by said execution means.

8. (Previously Presented) A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said list display means displays a list of thumbnails corresponding to the data to be searched.

9. (Previously Presented) A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said list display means displays a list of file names corresponding to the data to be searched.

10. (Previously Presented) A data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting means sets the search condition by directly inputting a keyword.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A data search apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the additional registration of the data by said matching means is performed based on the meta-data attached to the data.

13. (Currently Amended) A data search method for conducting a search of data which includes binary data and meta-data, comprising:

a list display step of selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in the database, and of displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

a meta-data display step of displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list;

a setting step of setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed in said meta-data display step;

an execution step of conducting a search of the data registered in the database based on the search condition set in said setting step; and

a matching step of prohibiting execution of said list display step from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in the database, and deletes the registration of the data,

wherein said search step also includes conducting a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said matching step additionally includes registering the data in the database.

14. (Original) A data search method according to claim 13, wherein the meta-data is described in a data description language.

15. (Original) A data search method according to claim 14, wherein the data description language is one of XML, SGML, and HTML.

16. (Original) A data search method according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the meta-data is attached after the binary data.

17. (Original) A data search method according to claim 13, wherein the binary data is one of still image data, moving picture data, and audio data.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A data search method according to claim 13, wherein said list display step includes displaying a list of a search result obtained by the search made in said execution step.

20. (Previously Presented)   A data search method according to claim 13, wherein said list display step includes displaying a list of thumbnails corresponding to the data to be searched.

21. (Previously Presented)   A data search method according to claim 13, wherein said list display step includes displaying a list of file names corresponding to the data to be searched.

22. (Previously Presented)   A data search method according to claim 13, wherein said setting step includes setting the search condition by directly inputting a keyword.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented)   A data search method according to claim 23, wherein the additional registration of the data in said matching step is performed based on the meta-data attached to the data.

25. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising:

a list display step of selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in the database, and of displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

a meta-data display step of displaying the meta-data contained in the data

selected from the list;

a setting step of setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed in

said meta-data display step;

an execution step of conducting a search of the data registered in the

database based on the search condition set in said setting step; and

a matching step of prohibiting execution of said list display step from

displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in the database,

and deletes the registration of the data,

wherein said search step also includes conducting a search of data which is

stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said

matching step additionally includes registering the data in the database.